

hardening their hearts, clergy, under holy orders from the Prince of Peace, were shouldering rifles and going out to kill. The Harnacks of Germany, with a blasphemy never known before in written or spoken words, were calling on God to strengthen their arms that they might kill more and more Englishmen. And then there came three years of rapine, murder, slaughter, rape, and every horror known to hell. What a shock if the dead were to awake after their long dream of heaven that was to right the wrongs and heal the wounds of their lives on earth to find there was no heaven and no healing. Could the shock be greater? Was our dream a delusion? The law of love which proceeded from the Cross, was it inconsistent with the laws of life? Did it fail us at the last moment? Is the Christianization of the world further off than ever? Are there two Christanities—one for the individual man and the other for the State? Will God's kingdom ever come? Is it useless and foolish to hope for the commonwealth of humanity, the League of Nations, for the protection of the world's peace? Is peace impossible, and will the war last as long as man?

Thank God, there is reason to think that the darkest hour is the hour before dawn, and out of the very blackness of the present I see hope for the future, such a hope as the world has never known before. Man's days are as a span, yet I think some of us will live to see not only peace but the end of war. But that and the glorious issue of our country's sacred cause, after the bitter price we have paid for it, are matter for another article.

NEW WINE IN OLD BOTTLES

Shortly after the Pope sent his communication to President Wilson, touching the possibility of peace between the nations of the world, and it had been rejected in the reply of Mr. Wilson, William Jennings Bryan was in Chicago. Naturally the newspaper men of that city were desirous of getting an expression from Mr. Bryan, particularly in view of the fact that the Commoner was known to be an advocate of peace.

The Chicago Journal reporter found Mr. Bryan at the University club and asked the Nebraskan to give an opinion on the reply of the President. Mr. Bryan said, "Since the war began, I have made it a rule not to discuss questions connected with the prosecution of the war or terms of peace. I do not want to violate that rule further than to say that the President has presented a powerful indictment of the German government. His argument is an amplification of a principle very briefly stated in Holy Writ, namely: It is not wise to put new wine into old bottles—the spirit of democracy into autocratic forms of government."

Mr. Bryan refused to go further, saying: "My work, as I conceive it, is to help to unify the nation in support of the government. If I were to discuss the merits of propositions I would continually arouse and encourage controversy. But when I insist it is the duty of every citizen to support his government in any act the government takes, I am presenting a proposition which is not open to dispute."

"Ours is the best government in the world—it is a people's government—and the government speaks for the people. The alternative is anarchy—the substitution of the individual's opinion for his government's decision."

Mr. Bryan did not need to "go further"—his statement covered the situation, as he usually does, in the best possible language. "New wine in old bottles." More pertinent sentence is impossible. The old bottles of autocratic government would burst with the new wine of democracy and both bottles and wine would be lost.—Asheville (N. C.) Times.

Governor Neville of Nebraska has announced that he will resign his office as soon as the Seventh Nebraska regiment has been mustered into service, and take command of it, a commission as colonel having been issued to him by Acting Governor Howard during Mr. Neville's absence from the state. The governor's action will place in the office of chief executive for Nebraska, in the person of Lieutenant Governor Howard, a democrat whose progressiveness has won for him distinguished honors in the past and insures to the state an administration which every true democrat can endorse.

Food Conservation

[By G. I. Christie, Superintendent, Agricultural Extension Department, Purdue University and State Food Director of Indiana.]

"Upon the farms of this country, therefore, in large measure rests the fate of the war and the fate of the nations: May the nation not count upon them to omit no step that will increase the production of their land or that will bring about the most effectual co-operation in the sale and distribution of their products." — President Wilson.

The United States occupies the most important agricultural position among the countries of the world today. Our country produces three-fourths of the world's corn crop, one-fifth of the wheat crop, one-eighth of the barley crop, one-fourth of the oat crop, one-fiftieth of the rye crop, one-sixteenth of the potato crop, three-fifths of the cotton crop, one-fourth of the flax seed crop, one-third of the tobacco crop, one-fourth of the hop, one-tenth of the sugar crop.

The United States ranks first in production of corn, wheat, oats, cotton, tobacco and hops; second for barley and flax, fourth for sugar and fifth for rye and potatoes.

Since the beginning of the European war the United States has exported large quantities of foodstuffs. At the same time much food has been imported with the result, as estimates now show that the United States has consumed about 99 per cent as much foodstuffs as it has produced.

A food emergency confronts us at this time. For example, in the United States for 1915 we produced 10 bushels of wheat per capita; in 1916 we produced 6 bushels per capita. In 1916 we consumed for seed and bread 6 1-3 bushels per capita. We exported in 1916, 2 1/2 bushels per capita. This means that the country has drawn heavily on the reserve supply of wheat with the result that the granaries of the world have been reduced to a point lower than that of many years. The Argentine wheat crop is a failure. The British government has taken an option on all surplus of the 1917 crop in Canada. The Australian crop is far too remote to affect the situation. Therefore, whether this nation has sufficient food to feed her own people and help supply the world's needs depends upon the crops produced this year.

The present situation can be met only by every man, woman and child doing their best. The farmer, of course, will cultivate the larger acreage and will be called upon to supply the surplus. On the other hand, every family in city and country can produce in backyard gardens and vacant lots a large amount of foodstuffs, such as potatoes, corn, tomatoes, beans, beets, carrots, cabbage, etc., for home use and thus allow a larger share of the farm products to be used for army purposes and the starving nations of Europe.

Each man should grow the crops he knows how to grow best and for which his soil is best suited. It is a mistake to plant potatoes on a heavy, poor soil. Beans on muck soil would give more promise of results. This crop is also a valuable and a much needed one. With any crop, though the soil should be well manured and fertilized and placed in the best tillth. The crop increase will more than pay for labor and expense.

Food waste in American households is estimated at \$700,000,000.

In his recent appeal to the people, President Wilson stated that every housewife who practices strict economy puts herself in the ranks of those who serve the nation. This is the time for America to correct her unpardonable fault of wastefulness and extravagance. Let every man and every woman assume the duty of careful, provident use and expenditure as a public duty, as a dictate of patriotism which no one can now expect ever to be excused or forgiven for ignoring.

This appeal is made directly in the interests of more economical use of foodstuffs and the limited expenditure of money for same. The appeal is to rich and poor alike. Well-to-do farmers should exercise great care in the amount of food purchased in order that larger supplies may be available for the armies and the starving nations of Europe. The poor people are called upon to buy wisely and economically in order

that they may secure the best possible food for the money expended.

Special attention should be given to the menus that are to be served. In order to limit the diet without reducing the working capacity of the adult, or retarding the growth of the child, it is necessary to know what the body needs and how "Three Meals a Day" may be so planned as to meet that requirement with a minimum outlay of money.

Plain, wholesome and nutritious food will be found both economical and healthful. Home makers can do much to conserve and reduce expenditures by limiting their demands upon the grocer and the merchant. The unusual demand of women has resulted in the building up of a large, complex and most expensive delivery system. The use of the telephone and the demand that deliveries be made several times each day means that grocers and merchants must maintain a number of delivery conveyances. In one little town there are three grocery stores, standing almost side by side and which have four auto delivery trucks. It would be easy for two of these trucks to deliver all goods from all of the stores. By making two deliveries a day all of the demands of the people could be met and it is estimated by the grocers themselves that more than one-fourth of the cost of delivery could be saved. The demands of the consumer will decide whether this system is to be continued or reduced.

Preservation of food will mean much in saving the food supply. Vegetables and fruit can be preserved through drying and canning at a time when they can be had in largest quantities and at the lowest prices. By saving from the gardens and orchards large amounts of these products the home will have its own supply for most of the year which will reduce the demand on the surplus of the farm.

Proper storage is a factor in the handling of food. Many homes and flat buildings are not equipped with suitable storage places for potatoes, beets, carrots and other vegetables and for such fruits as apples, pears, etc., that should be stored in a cool, dark place. Some arrangements should be made for the handling of these materials. It may be desirable in many communities to arrange to store these products in some special storage plant, so they may be saved in large quantities for the use of the people during the winter months.

Eliminating waste through the use of large quantities of fruit and vegetables which may be allowed to rot on the ground is a most important work. Many farmers will have fruit and vegetables in small quantities which they can not afford to pick, pack and deliver with any reasonable profit. On the other hand, people from the towns and country with suitable conveyances can reach these districts and secure the products at a very small cost. Some organized effort should be made in every community to care for this surplus so that none shall be wasted. Every particle of it will be needed to meet the demands of our people. It remains now to devise some way in which it can be utilized.

The influence that county agents may wield in the country-wide food increase drive is best presented by an outline of what county agents have done and are doing to increase and conserve the food supply.

As soon as the call for more food was issued the county agents of Indiana began a campaign through newspapers and public meetings urging greater production. It is estimated that the meetings were attended by 400,000 people, an average of 10,000 to each county which had a county agent. The acreage of corn in Indiana is believed to have been increased 10 per cent or 500,000 acres as a result. Assuming an average corn yield this will mean next fall an increase of 17,000,000 bushels of corn as a result of expansion of acreage alone.

Agitation for the selection of good seed corn began last fall in campaigns for fall-selection of seed, and throughout the winter county agents urged and directed seed-corn testing in rural schools. When the declaration of war came, a final campaign was carried directly to the farmer.

An example of what county agents did is found in the work of Russel G. East, county

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